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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DFC 17

ON THE RECORD UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED

TRANSCRIPT OF PRESS AND RADIO NEWS BRIEFING, WEDNESDAY,  
JANUARY 23, 1963, 12:33 p.m.

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MR. WHITE: Gentlemen, we have a couple of releases here: The first, No. 48, "Remarks by The Honorable George W. Ball, Under Secretary of State, at the Freedom House Dinner in Honor of His Excellency Jean Monnet, Waldorf Astoria Hotel" tonight, for the regular 6:30 p.m. paper release.

Also, No. 50 concerns the Foreign Policy Conference to be held at San Francisco, February 14.

At 3:30, the Secretary will be presented with a Scouter badge. The Cub Scout who will present the badge is Mr. Henry D. Horn, III, who will be accompanied by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry D. Horn, II. Mr. Horn is with the Federal Communications Commission. So I don't want to hear any cracks out of you, Scall.

[Laughter]

Q I thought he had got his Boy Scout badge.

Q Sort of reversed order. He is already a Scout, isn't he?

Q Never too late.

A And Mr. Robert McLaughlin, Member of the

Executive Board, National Capital Area Council, Boy Scouts of America, will be present.

Also present:

Mr. J. Glenn Singleton, Scout Executive, National Capital Area Council, Boy Scouts of America.

Mr. Carl Hildebrand, Field Director, National Capital Area Council, Boy Scouts of America.

And, Mrs. Russell Marriott, who is "Chairlady" for Operation V.I.P. Project, National Capital Area Council, Boy Scouts of America.

Q Chairman of what? The V.I.P. Project?

A Yes.

Q If these of you can wait, just for a second, before you dash to the telephone--that's all I have got.

Q Line, do you have any comment on the French-German Accord signed yesterday in Paris?

A No.

Q Line, the Foreign Minister of Turkey has announced that American missiles based in Turkey will be dismantled soon, and replaced by Polaris missiles carried on Naval vessels. The dismantling will begin now.

A Well, as I have said before here, we are discussing modernization of weapons systems with various

NATO countries, including Turkey. So that is as far as I can go on this.

Q As part of that, will these missiles be withdrawn and replaced by Polaris?

A They will be modernized.

Q I can't hear.

A I just said they will be modernized.

Q Well, what you say here is that "we are discussing" which indicates that no decisions have been reached.

A I am not positive on that, John. I don't want to go beyond what I have said here.

Q Well, you can't say then whether decisions have been reached?

A I do not know whether a flat decision has been reached or not.

Q Line, he says "when these are withdrawn there would be no missiles on Turkish soil."

A Yes.

Q So it becomes a question how they would be replaced. Would they be replaced with US Polaris submarines? Or is this part of the eventual multilateral nuclear force; and, if so, what is the timing? It is all fairly--

A At this point, I am not prepared to say.

Q Line, there are reports--

Q I want to ask one other question: Is there--I don't know quite how to ask this, but is there some decision that any information on this should be given out by the Turkish Foreign Minister instead of by the US Government?

A Of course, not, John. I have given you everything I can give you at this stage.

Q Well, I am trying to raise with you--I am trying to raise with the State Department, through you, the question: what we are supposed to do about an authoritative piece of information, quoted from Ankara, on a matter of considerable importance here. As I pointed out, the authorized statement here indicates that the thing has not been--

A What I have said, John, is that we are discussing with Turkish officials the modernization of weapons systems. And that's as far as I can go at this stage.

Q Yes. But the Turkish Foreign Minister announces a decision involving American weapons, line, and until we get something from the American side we have to rely only on the Turkish Foreign Minister.

A Well, I am sorry, gentlemen. I am just not in a position to confirm this at this stage.

Q Line, one other question. We are being

asked whether this has any relationship to the recent Cuban missile crisis, which it was denied by everyone that there would be any--

A None whatsoever.

Q Line, there is a Release No. 47 on UARo United States Aviation Consultations. Do you have any idea what are the specific subjects of this consultation?

A Didn't we have a briefing on that?

MR. REAP: There is a transcript out there of yesterday afternoon.

Q Line, Britain announced it was sending an Ambassador to Outer Mongolia today.

A Yes.

Q And the story from London indicated that the United States may be taking some similar action. Do you have any comment?

A The comment is that there is no change in our policy.

Q Change in policy of what?

A Well, you will recall at one point there was some consideration here, but in view of the world situation that review was discontinued, and it is not under active consideration now, and to my knowledge has not been since that time.